(b) Delay occurs due to the following reasons:

(1) Subscribers are not available.

(2) Subscriber's premises are found closed.

(3) Dispute between applicant and Occupant.

(4) Premises not being ready.

(5) Cable laying could not be completed in newly constructed Housing Colonies.

(c) The required information is being compiled and will be placed on the table of the House.

Installation of new telephone in Bombay

1517. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after issue of Orders for providing new telephone connections by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Bombay there is considerable delay of more than thirty days in installation and commissioning of the telephone connections;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the staff uses these delaying tactics to extort money from the applicants; and

(c) what fool-proof system the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam authorities propose to adopt to minimise delays and avoid corruption in such matters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to avoid unfair practice and delay in installation of telephones, following steps have been taken:

(1) The likely time by which the connection shall be installed is intimated to all the applicants in advance.

(2) In most of the cases when telephones are provided on bulk release the same are installed and commissioned roadwise/building-wise simultaneously.

(3) The cable works are planned and taken up in advance.

(4) The subscribers' fittings are arranged in advance in all bulk release of telephone connections.

Delivery of Mail in Rural Areas

1518. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the delay in delivery of telegrams, Money orders, letters and Registered letters all over the country specially in rural areas; and

(b) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. No case of recuring delay to mail in any sector, including the rural areas has been noticed or reported. Except for a small part of mail, every postal article transits through one or more mail offices depending on the destination. Occasional dislocations in the mail system on account of transport failure, unusual bulk of the mail or shortage of operative staff have an adverse effect, which may lead to cumulative delays sometimes.